THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

CABINET WAR CAMPAIGN

The Press Bureau has announced that certain Cabinet Ministers are to deliver addresses, we suppose with the object of re-vivifying the dying embers of War enthusiasm amongst the people. The list of Ministers and meetings is as follows:—

Bristol, Lord Robert Cecil.
Edinburgh, Mr. Tennant.
Leicester, Mr. McKinnon Wood.
Liverpool, Earl Curzon.
Newcastle, Mr. Samuel.
Northampton, Mr. Arthur Henderson.

We suppose these are the safe men and the safe places.

WHAT THE PEOPLE THINK

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has addressed the following letter to the Press:—

"On Sunday I spoke in Burnley to a meeting estimated as 1,000 people (the hall normally holds 800, it was crowded and many were standing, numbers were turned away). I put to the meeting two resolutions. The first: 'This meeting calls on the Government to introduce a Bill to enfranchise every man and woman of adult age.' This was carried unanimously.

"The second: 'This meeting calls on the Government to stop the War.' This was carried with six dissentients.

"I understand that Cabinet Ministers are about to tour the country. I believe that their campaign will fail to arouse enthusiasm unless they are able to give definite assurances on three points:

"(1) That there is no truth in the allegation that the Government of England and France have guaranteed to Russia territorial rule over Constantinople, the Bosphorus and the Western shores of the Dardanelles with its hinterland, and have arranged to divide Asia Minor amongst the Entente Powers; or that if there is any truth in the allegation the British Government is prepared to abandon its part in the agreement.

"(2) That the British Government will immediately publish its terms of peace in order that they may be considered by the people of this country and the Government and peoples of the other nations.

"(3) That the War shall be brought to a speedy end.

"(4) That a Government measure will be introduced for the enfranchisement of every man and woman of adult age, in order that the whole people may vote at the next General Election.—Yours, etc., E. SYLVIA PANKHURST."

WHAT WAS THE END OF THE WAR?

When Sir Ernest Shackleton arrived to rescue his marooned men on Elephant Island, they asked, "What was the end of the War?" The writer of the "Manchester Guardian" London Letter, says that their comment on Shackleton's forty-hour long account of the War was that it was "like hearing madness talked." We agree.

AMERICAN PEACE CAMPAIGN.

We understand that a great peace campaign is being initiated in America. We welcome it cordially, and hope that President Wilson will support it with all his power.

CONSCRIPT OF 14.

At Old Street Children's Court, George Thomas Hill, aged 14, was charged with being a deserter from the Army, and handed over to a military escort.

His mother said that he joined the Army a fortnight before, and was in a draft warned for the front.

This child ought to have been handed over to his mother. The retention in the Army of boys under age should be made illegal.

* * * *

Our good wishes to Mr. Clifford Allen, Mr. Fenner Brockway, Mr. W. Peet, and the others who have borne the burden of N.C.F. work and are now undergoing sentences of various kinds.

COME TO THE

Woman's Exhibition

AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7th, 8th, and 9th, from 3 to 10 p.m.

OPENERS—THURSDAY: Mr. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.
FRIDAY: Mr. J. M. HOGGE, M.P.
SATURDAY: Miss EMILY HOBHOUSE.

SPEECHES BY

Mrs. Bouvier. Mrs. Drake. Mr. George Lansbury.
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Miss Susan Lawrence.
Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, M.P. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky. Mrs. Walker.
Miss Norah March will lecture on Sex Education.

EXHIBITS:

SWEATED INDUSTRIES: Arranged by Mrs. Savoy and Dr. Tchaykovsky.

FOOD PRICES: Arranged by Miss E. Dyce Sharp and Mrs. Drake.

MOTHERCRAFT AND CHILD WELFARE: Arranged by Mrs. Porter.

MONTESSORI DEMONSTRATION: Miss Muriel Matters will lecture on Thursday.

PHOTOGRAPHS WITH COMPETITION. Fee 2s. 6d. Judged by E. O. Hoppé, F.R.P.S.

PORTRAIT SKETCHES by John Collard and Amy K. Browning.

MODEL ELECTION, arranged by the Proportional Representation Society. Men and Women Electors; Men and Women Candidates.

CONCERT: Miss Maria Levinskaja, the Russian Pianist; Carlo Liten, Belgian Dramatic Reciter; Soprano solo, Mme. Vera Kastelianskaja; Artistes from Margaret Morris School of Dance; and others.

ADMISSION: 1s. from 3 to 10; 6d. from 6 to 10 p.m.; 3-day ticket, 2s.

Tickets may be obtained from the Exhibition Secretary, Miss Sonia Rodker, 400 Old Ford Road, E.; the International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, Adelphi; and at the doors.

The German Secretary of the Interior, in introducing a Bill to establish "auxiliary service" for men from seventeen to sixty years, said: "Compulsion will only be used in the last resort." That sort of thing is said over here: it means very little once compulsory powers have been obtained. The Secretary for the Interior said that compulsion for women is not needed. The German Government's treatment of this problem is important to us, both as internationalists and because the British Government frequently follows such German examples. General Gröner, the Chief of the German War Department declares that the exertions of the British Ministry of Munitions necessitated an increase in the German manufacture of munitions.

This is how the preparedness theory always works out.

Contraventions of the German Service Bill may be punished by imprisonment up to one year and a half and a fine of 10,000 marks.

SLAVERY?

The British Government intends to bring men from India, the Malay States, the West Indies and Africa to work behind the lines in France. It is not yet decided whether they shall be employed also in this country.

Are these men to be given a free choice as to whether they will come to Europe and allowed to return at will; or are they to be conscribed.

If they are conscribed or held in Europe against their will, there can be no evading the fact that the slavery of subject peoples will have been re-established in Europe. Are the British people prepared to assent to it. We hope not.

MUNITIONS TRIBUNAL.

"If women choose to enter munition works under the dilution of labour scheme and accept the work hitherto done by men they must do that work and have no nonsense about it."—Sheriff Fyfe at the Glasgow Munitions Tribunal.

Why then should there be any "nonsense" about allowing equal pay?

* * * *

Seven girls struck work at a Leeds munition factory recently because they were asked to do men's work at lower pay. They were fined 2s. each.

THE REGAL FIVEPENCE.

At a meeting of the Devon Women's War Service Committee Miss Culmady-Hamlyn complained that in some districts women were only paid 6s. an acre for mangold pulling.

Mrs. Mildmay said that in Totnes district the pay was 5d. an hour; the farmers in that district were paying not only adequately but generously.

Would she like to live on 5d. per hour?

SUFFRAGE IN THE LORDS

In the House of Lords on November 23rd Lord Salisbury complained that the Government had not yet determined their attitude towards his Registration Bill. Lord Lansdowne, replying for the Government, said that he had hoped that the larger franchise question would be dealt with early in the present week, but that his hopes had been frustrated. As the Bill stood, it was not acceptable to the War Office, the Admiralty, the Ministry of Munitions, and the Local Government Board. The Government would offer no opposition to the Bill's further progress, and would make no further attempt to alter it, but it was to be inferred that the Government would accept no responsibility.

The Bill passed through Committee.

ADULT SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE AT LEICESTER

The conference of Suffrage and Labour organisations convened by the Leicester Branch of the Workers' Suffrage Federation at the Foresters' Institute was attended by thirty-four organisations. The "Leicester Daily Post" gave the following report of the conference:—

. . . Some thirty societies were represented at the meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. John Maillard (president of the Leicester branch of the Workers' Suffrage Federation), and the principal speaker was Miss E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, drew attention to the importance of securing a community in which fellowship should reign supreme, and denied that those people who were now asking for reconstruction were unpatriotic, as their reactionary opponents called them.

Mr. E. Binns (president of the Trades Council) moved the following resolution:—"That this Conference, realising that all men and women have an equal claim to the franchise, calls upon the Government to introduce, not a Registration Bill, but a Franchise Bill, to give a vote to every man and woman who has reached the age of twenty-one years." In doing so he mentioned that a very similar resolution had recently been passed unanimously by the Trades Council. It was helpful to individuals and to the State that every individual should be included in the franchise, and they had the right to ask that the point of view of both men and women should be expressed. This would broaden responsibility, and make individuals feel in a practical form that they were members of the State.

Miss Willson, of the Boot and Shoe Union, seconded, and said it was high time men and women had the vote on equal terms. Women had been ignored so long as it was possible to ignore them, but they had come into the labour market to stay, and it was evident that in the future they were to play a great part in the work of the world. (Hear, hear.) If women had had the vote things would be very different from what they were. They would not bear the sweated labour of the past, and child mortality would be less, and many evils would not exist.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, in supporting, observed that it ought to be realised now what a very important thing the vote was. The vote had been in abeyance since the War commenced, and the power of the Government had been very largely increased. One by one our civil rights had disappeared, and this had been especially apparent to the Labour movement. A much larger scheme of industrial conscription was now probable, and many people were pressing for Army pay for civil work. Then there was the question of conscription, which was very serious in itself. These were all additional reasons why we should have the vote. It was more essential than ever before that all the people should vote at the next election. Miss Pankhurst proceeded to deal with the recent political developments in connection with the suffrage, and said a naval and military franchise was now being definitely demanded. She thought the move would be to make it difficult for people outside the Army to get the vote at all. Why was this? Because those who were heading the agitation thought the soldiers would be more or less under the control of their officers. She hoped that at that conference they would be clear that people should have votes because they were human beings—because they had to obey the laws, and suffer if the laws were bad. (Hear, hear.) They would have to get what they wanted by pressure in the country. There was no health or soundness in Parliament, except what it got from the country. All sorts of compromises would be offered them, but she urged them not to accept any compromises, but go straight for adult suffrage. (Applause.)

In the course of the discussion which followed, several trade union delegates stated that their branches were taking more interest in the question than they had ever done before, and recognised that it was only reasonable that women should now be given the vote.

The "Leicester Daily Mercury," the "Leicester Mail," and other local papers also gave long reports.

A most interesting discussion followed the opening speeches.

A representative of the Municipal Employees' Association declared the question of adult suffrage to be most vital and important at the present time, and urged that an agitation for it should be carried on in all organisations. Mr. Hill, of the N.U.C., said he spoke for an organisation representing both men and women, and urged that neither property nor sex barriers to the franchise should be maintained. There were ignorant people in all classes; some of these were to be found at Trinity College, as was proved by the fact that they had dismissed one of their employees because they did not agree with his political views.

Mr. Rouse, of the N.U.R. No. 1 Branch, said that at one time when the question of votes for women had been raised there had been "a bit of a laugh," and it had been moved that the matter lie on the table, but now the branch of 700 members was anxious to do all it could in the matter. For himself Mr. Rouse felt that his wife had her part to play in life; she had joined a political party, and paid her contributions to it, and he could not see why she should be excluded from a citizen's voice in the government of her country.

Mrs. Bell Richards said that women were grateful to men who were honest in support of this question. Miss Ashbee, of the U.D.C., asked whether it would not be better to fix

(Continued on Page 608, Column 3.)

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

A TRADE UNION FOR PENSIONERS

We wish very urgently to press upon our readers the necessity for an organisation of the persons who are receiving or ought to be receiving Naval and Military Pensions and separation allowances. Good machinery may be devised; committees of worthy individuals may be set up; but without the driving power provided by those who feel the pinch, the pensioners will eventually be left to something very nearly approaching a Poor Law standard after all.

The need for eternal vigilance was strikingly illustrated by Mr. Hayes Fisher's casual statement on Monday that 20,000 pensions and allowances have been declared forfeit during the last few months. The public knows nothing of these cases. Those whose maintenance has been stopped have no redress and no appeal.

Here is a list of demands which the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives and Disabled Soldiers is making:—

1. *That separation allowances and pensions be raised in accordance with the increase in the cost of living which has taken place since the pension scale was fixed, and that the allowance for each child shall be 5s. a week plus such increase.*
2. *That payments be arranged alphabetically in order to prevent congestion at post offices during the times that pensions and allowances are being paid, so that persons whose names begin with certain letters be paid on one day, those beginning with certain letters the next day, and so on throughout the week; also that there be an increase in the post office staffs in order to deal with payments.*
3. *That pensions and allowances to sailors' wives be brought up to the level of those to soldiers' wives, and that allowances be secured to sailors' wives as they are to soldiers' wives.*
4. *That where a soldier or sailor applies for separation allowance on her behalf, this shall be granted without question as to whether the husband and wife were residing together prior to the time of enlistment and without enquiry being instituted as to the amount previously contributed by the husband to her support.*
5. *That pensions to the children of soldiers shall include all the children who have been supported by the soldier, including step-children adopted children, illegitimate children and others, and that pensions shall not be confined to the children of the soldier born prior to his discharge, as at present, but shall include any born up to nine months after his discharge.*
6. *That separation allowances and pensions shall become the absolute property of the recipients, and shall not be withdrawn for any cause. If persons in receipt of pensions or separation allowances misconduct themselves, they shall be punished by the ordinary legal process applicable to others.*
7. *That disabled men shall not be discharged until the arrangements for the payment of pensions are complete, and there shall be no interim between the cessation of army pay and separation allowance and the commencement of pension.*
8. *That men discharged from the army at the close of the War shall be entitled to full pay and separation allowance until suitable work has been found for them at a Trade Union rate of wage.*
9. *That widowed mothers and other adults mainly dependent on soldiers and sailors shall be treated as wives in respect of separation allowance and pension, and brothers and sisters under 14 as soldiers' and sailors' children.*
10. *That the pension of a soldier's wife or dependant shall be raised to the separation allowance scale.*
11. *That the separation allowances shall be fixed entirely irrespective of allotments, and that separation allowances shall be raised accordingly in order that:—*
    (a) *The dependants shall be assured of the regular payment of a sum sufficient to live on not subject to periodical deductions as at present;*
    (b) *the soldiers and sailors who have dependants shall not be penalised in respect of their scanty pay as compared with those who are without dependants, and in order that the dependants may not be forced to provide out of their allowances as at present food, money, etc., to supplement the wages of soldiers and sailors.*
12. *That there shall be no stoppage of pensions or allowances whilst inquiries are being made, and that allowances to wives and relatives shall not be stopped or reduced because of any misdemeanour by the soldier or any over-payment to him or any over-payment to the wives and relatives not due to their own fault.*
13. *That there shall be no stoppage of allowance or pension on account of children being away from home for less than three months, and only then if it can be shown that the allowances are not being used for their support.*
14. *That the pensions of disabled soldiers and sailors shall be not less than 30s. a week and 5s. for each child and 7s. for each motherless child, plus any increase in the cost of living which has taken place since the outbreak of War.*
15. *That the soldier or sailor shall be entitled to insist that a doctor of his own choice shall be present when he is medically examined, both on enlistment and on discharge, by the Army or Navy medical officers.*
    In case of dispute, the case shall be tried by the Courts as in the case of workmen's compensation.

This last is extremely important in order that the decision shall not be left solely to the War Office and its Medical Boards, or, as it may be in future, to the Pensions Ministry.

REFUSAL OF PENSION.

Here are a few typical cases with which the League of Rights has had to deal:—

On March 15th, 1916, a letter was received from the wife of a disabled soldier living at Sutton-in-Ashfield, who explained that her husband had been discharged from the Army without pension on May 26th, 1915, and had been confined in Radcliffe County Asylum since June 7th, 1915, having been under the care of a local doctor in the meantime. He was only just beginning to make a slight improvement. There were four children, the eldest nine years of age and the youngest two. The wife had been given a small allowance from the Prince of Wales' Fund, but this had been gradually reduced, and now she was told that if she needed any further help she must apply for Poor Law Relief.

We at once applied to Chelsea Hospital for a pension for the man and his children, and received a printed acknowledgment stating that the matter was receiving attention. This was followed by a letter dated April 18th, stating that the man was "mentally deficient," and as he had been discharged as "not likely to become an efficient soldier" was "not entitled to any pension or other allowance from Army funds."

We communicated the contents of this letter to the soldier's wife, who told us that for six years prior to enlistment her husband had worked underground as a coal miner for the same employer and had attended his work regularly. Now he was ill and unable to work at all.

It seemed clear that the man could hardly have been feeble-minded, as he had been able to retain his work underground. We asked the wife to send us a letter from any reliable person prepared to vouch for the man's sanity prior to enlistment. In reply we received a letter from a local school teacher who was secretary to the County Association of the N.U.T., stating that both the writer, who had known the ex-soldier for ten years, and the ex-soldier's employer had found him quite intelligent.

This letter, with our comments, we transmitted to Chelsea Hospital on 25th May. On June 21st we received a reply stating that it had been been found necessary to refer the case to the regimental authorities, and that some time must elapse before the inquiries could be completed. On July 13th we received a letter to say that the man was to be examined by a Board of Military Medical Officers.

On November 23rd, 1916, a year and six month's after her husband's discharge, we received a letter from the wife thanking us for the fact that her husband had been granted a pension of 23s. a week. This is not enough, and we are writing to claim 25s. for the man and 2s. 6d. for each of his four children; also the arrears. We ask the public to realise the appalling hardships to which this family have been subjected in waiting eighteen months for the pension!

PAYMASTERS' MUDDLES.

On October 17th, 1916, Mrs. J. applied to us because the paymaster was deducting 6s. 6d. a week from her allowance of 32s. 6d. a week for herself and her six children. She had borrowed some money from the War Pensions Committee, and it had been agreed that she should pay it back by deductions at the rate of 3s. a week.

We wrote to ask the Paymaster why he was deducting 6s. 6d. a week. He replied that he was only deducting 3s. from the allowance of 29s. a week for a wife and six children.

We suggested to him that he had overlooked the fact that this soldier's wife lived in London, and was therefore entitled to 3s. 6d. rent allowance over and above the 29s.

The Paymaster replied that the woman had been away from London for three months, and had therefore forfeited all right to London allowance.

We replied that the soldier's wife had gone North to stay for a time with her husband, who had been sent there by the military.. She had taken two of her children with her, and had left the other four in their home in London. Out of her allowance she had sent 23s. each week to her sister, who had kept the home going for her during her absence.

On October 28th the Paymaster agreed to reissue rent allowance. This woman had tried in vain to settle the matter before approaching us.

On July 27th Mrs. M. informed us that she was only getting 21s. though her allowance was 26s. a week. The Paymaster explained on August 18th that a reduction of 2s. 6d. a week was being made owing to the fact that one of the children had been in the infirmary from April 29th, 1916, to July 1st, 1916, and that a further reduction was due to the fact that her husband had deserted from the Army for a time.

In November Mrs. M—— was still only getting 21s. a week, though her husband, who was in France, had been promoted to the rank of corporal. His fault had evidently been expiated to the satisfaction of his superior officers, but his wife was still paying for it. About this time Mrs. M——'s allowance was stopped altogether for a week because her book was called in for readjustment..

We have written for a statement of accounts in this case, as we believe that more has been deducted from Mrs. M—— than even the harsh War Office rules allow. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

ADULT SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE (con.from front page)
twenty-four as the voting age of both men and women. A representative from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies said that the organisation had been glad to take part in the conference, but it was not a part of the policy of the N.U.W.S.S. to take a stand as to what the franchise should be.

A representative of the A.S.E. said that some time ago his organisation had taken no interest in this question, but times had moved on, and the War conditions had wrought many changes. The demand for votes for all men and women had removed sex antagonism, and made it easier for men and women to work together.

Two representatives of the Dairy Workers related similar experiences. At first their organisations had moved to lay the summons to the conference on the table, but were now roused to the importance of the question. They did not see why a person should vote for a cottage or a fowl pen and not on the ground of humanity.

Mr. West, of the Leicester Trades Council, declared that all honest reformers must welcome adult suffrage. The flower of the young manhood had been taken for the battle-fields of Europe. In his opinion the flower of the young womanhood would be needed to fight the political fight.

Mr. Middleton, of the No. 2 Boot and Shoe Branch, said that his organisation of 4,500 members was pledged to adult suffrage. He urged that the question must be discussed in the trade union branch and also in the workshop..

Miss Gittins, of the U.D.C., said that her organisation was working for democratic control, and that adult suffrage was essential to democratic control. A representative of the N.C.F. expressed enthusiastic support.

A woman representative of the Tramway and Vehicle Workers said that she had been four years in New South Wales and three years in New Zealand. She had voted in both these places after six months' residence, and in New Zealand she had gone 100 miles to the poll. She was glad to learn that England was waking up.

The resolution calling upon the Government to introduce a measure granting a vote to every man and woman over twenty-one was carried unanimously; also a recommendation, to be carried back to their organisations by the delegates assembled, that a permanent council should be formed.

AN EAST LONDONER: Interview with Mrs. Drake

Often, when I heard of Suffragists holding propaganda meetings in East London, I wondered what success such propaganda could possibly have. I thought that the depression due to poverty, unhealthy conditions, and all that one associates with East End life could not leave much room for ideals.

Mrs. Drake, who joined the Workers' Suffrage Federation, then called the East London Federation of Suffragettes, is one of the many whom I have met to prove how erroneous my conclusions were. She is a real East Ender, was born and brought up there, under anything but favourable conditions.

At the early age of thirteen she became a barmaid. She did not approve of drink, so that when she grew older she used to combine her work behind the bar with discussions with her customers on the rights and wrongs of taking intoxicating drink. "I was religious then," she said to me, "and I never went to church without first confessing to the clergyman; because I thought the bar rendered me unworthy of attending service."

When eighteen years old her mother died, leaving a young brother and sister to her care. It was this charge which caused her to develop ideas on sex education and sex hygiene. The appended lecture, which Mrs. Drake gave at the Conference of the British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union will explain these views.

"Why did you take up speaking for suffrage?" I asked. "Well, because I thought it was a means of hastening the improvements which I saw to be necessary, before women could live a decent life. . . . . I do not like speaking. I am always afraid of being misunderstood, but the thought of making the world better for the children that are growing up, helps me to overcome that fear."

Mrs. Drake takes life too seriously, if I may say so; she boasts that her mottoes have always been, "Do your best and leave the rest"; "A thing worth doing is worth doing well."

Her pleasures are practically nil. She never had a holiday, and now, though still quite young, the hardship of acting barmaid, sewing shirts, mothering her younger brother and sister in her teens, have made her almost incapable of enjoying one. "I am happy if there is a good library where I stay, when I travel around the country speaking; I love nothing as much as a good book."

Mrs. Drake has four children, the eldest thirteen, and to those who may imagine that a suffrage speaker is not a housewife, I say she is an over-conscientious mother and wife.

Visitors to the Caxton Hall Exhibition will appreciate the work for which she is responsible in conjunction with Miss E. Dyce Sharp in arranging the Food Prices Exhibit. Having spent her life in making ends meet, she is in her element in this undertaking.

M. O'C.

EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG IN SEX HYGIENE

I am going to speak on this subject as a mother and to give you my experiences. I was a very curious child, and asked my mother questions, and she was a woman, like a good many of you here.. Though these questions have been discussed in a very nice way, you have had to close your eyes to the picture, drawn for your imagination, and have thought you could not talk like that to your children. That, of course, was not in the mind of the speaker, because by a long study of these things, she has made herself familiar with them. My mother was a reticent woman, and the most definite information I could get from her was, "As the tree is bent, so the twig is inclined." She would never be frank about these matters, but left me to draw my own conclusions.

At school the things I learnt were ugly and untrue, and since I have been a woman, I have realised how wrong it is that children should obtain garbled information as I did, and how difficult it is for all mothers to teach their children.

That is the big thing we are faced with, nearly all mothers are afraid of this subject. They do not know either how to teach or what to teach their children.

This is a splendid meeting here, but of what use is it to our working-class mothers? They are the backbone of the nation. They produce the workers, who are going to carry on everything. You are already educated on these questions, and therefore your being here is a waste of time unless you are prepared to take the responsibility of the knowledge you have got by helping to educate those who are less fortunate.

I should like to suggest that in the schools the boys and girls, from the age of eleven, should be taught systematically in these matters. The girls by a woman-nurse and doctor, the boys by a man-nurse and doctor. This can be done more easily in the schools than by the parents at home. The motto, put before the children should be: "Sacred thy body, even as thy soul."

The medical profession, doctors, midwives, chemists, and nurses are fully alive to the fact that ignorance of these things is a serious evil, but they will not impart their knowledge to those who consult them.

To prove this, I may mention the case of a policeman's wife, whom I know. Her husband before their marriage had been a valet. He had not been brought up well. He had lived a "fast" life. She was a country girl, a very good girl, whose only fault was absolute ignorance, the earliest result of which was the birth of the first child immediately after marriage. The family number five now, and the two eldest are lovely girls of eleven and thirteen. The mother said to me, "I must teach them, I cannot let them grow up and suffer as I did. I am afraid of their father's influence, and how can I safeguard them?" I advised her what simple books to get for her girls, and I realised then, as you must do, what a curse this conspiracy of silence is.

The result of the conspiracy is that a million pounds are being spent in trying to cure what a thousand pounds spent in education would prevent. I want to tell you that the most important question of all is that of educating the young. There is everything in life bound up with it. All advanced movements have to suffer because it is neglected. We must have healthy minds in healthy bodies.

Another young girl, the daughter of a tradesman, was employed as a barmaid in a public house. She stayed five years in one situation. She married the son of a publican, who was a waiter. Before marriage she discovered that he had false hair, but she did not think anything of it. She was a healthy girl, but her first and second children were born dead. The third child is blind of one eye, and the mother is warned that her daughter will probably die at puberty. The fourth child has tuberculosis of the brain. The mother is now carrying the fifth child, and her constitution is wrecked. She asks: "What will be the future of my children, who are without health and strength?" Had she been educated in these matters, I can assure you, she would have had a different and happier life, because she is an intelligent woman.

We must demand that the doctors shall be made responsible for telling the truth to their patients, and educated to their responsibility on these matters, so that mothers may be taught, and be able to teach their children.

If we mothers are too shy to teach our children, because we have not trained ourselves to speak on these things, we must insist on seeing that books shall be procurable easily, and shall not be as at present, too expensive for the workers to buy. My eldest daughter is twelve, and directly she could read, I gave her books on this subject, and told her not to talk about them.

There are plenty of pamphlets out there in the corridor. Who is going to get them? You who do not need them. You condemn the poor for having such large families, but you should blame yourselves for not doing your best for them. Even if 10s. a week were given to her for each child, I know plenty of mothers who would not have any more children if they could help it. I say, put this knowledge into the hands of the poorest people, and let them see that knowledge serves them best. It is the business of women to attend to these matters. Let us get on to the local authorities, and see that this education is given in the schools. The future of the race is bound up in it. Better than any charity is the national right to knowledge. Money is found to destroy life, and money must be found to save it.

AN INSIGHT INTO EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

STATE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

OUR COMMENTS ON THE RECONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS OF SYDNEY WEBB AND ARNOLD FREEMAN HAVE AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. THE FOLLOWING NOTES HAVE REACHED US FROM A CORRESPONDENT WHO HAS PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORKING OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

It seems to me that an extended use of Labour Exchanges would only lead to industrial conscription. Under Unemployment Insurance, each worker has a *separate* number and index card on which his whole record is kept. If Unemployment Insurance were extended to all trades, all workers would be numbered and docketed. Of course, "leaving certificates," etc., are enforced through Labour Exchanges.

A workman does not receive benefit if "he leaves his employment owing to misconduct or voluntarily without just cause." As the last employer is always written to, it means that if he is vindictive, he can always prevent the workman getting benefit. When the worker applies for unemployment benefit, the following form is sent to his employer:—

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 TO 1914.—UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Labour Exchange,

Date ———

Sir,—I have to inform you that the workman, of whom particulars are given below, lodged his unemployment book at the Local Office of the unemployment fund at ——— ———and made application for unemployment benefit on the ——— stating that he was last employed by you as set out below.

Under Section 87 (1) and Section 87 (2) of the principal Act a workman is (subject to certain savings) disqualified for unemployment benefit if he has lost employment:—

(1) By reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at the factory, workshop, or other premises at which he was employed; or

(2) Through misconduct or voluntarily leaving his employment without just cause.

This notice is given with the view of obtaining information from you on the subject of the disqualifications for unemployment benefit referred to in the above provisions, and any comment you have to make upon the claim of the workman with reference to such provisions should be entered in the space below, and the form should be folded and returned to me with the least possible delay.

In this connection I have to point out that, while the Board of Trade have no statutory authority to interpret the law in this respect, they are advised that any comment upon the workman's claim made by you in good faith on this form with reference to the disqualification above referred to would be held to be a privileged communication.

If, however, the circumstances under which the workman left you were not in your opinion such as to be any ground for disqualification under the above provisions, you need not return this form. Failing the receipt of this form on the third day after and including the date above, it will be assumed that you have no comment to make, though any decision reached on the claim will still be subject to revision on information being obtained subsequently, either from you or from other sources.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

To ———
Manager.

Name of Workman ——— No. of Unemployed Book ———
Occupation of Workman ———
Department and Name of Foreman and place of employment ———
Date of commencement of employment, as given by Workman ———
Date of termination of employment, as given by Workman ———

REMARKS.

Date ——— Signature of Employer———

A worker does not get benefit if the wages and conditions in work offered are no worse than in his or her previous employment. This means that if a worker has been sweated he or she must take other work at a sweated wage or be refused benefits. A provision is made that workers need not accept work at a wage lower than the standard rate of the district, but in the case of women that means anything.

Irishmen who refuse work in England are denied unemployment benefit, though going to England often places them in the power of the Military Authorities. This applies to men up to 60 years of age. In one case a widower with three young children was refused benefit for this reason.

Hundreds of men have been sent to England and Scotland for work as navvies in munition factories.

The following remark made to me by an assistant manager might appeal to you:—"I suppose you understand that our main object here is to save the fund, and we never pay benefit if we can possibly avoid it." Benefit is never paid if there is the smallest loophole, and the clerks concerned get into serious trouble if workmen are not got off benefit pretty soon.

In the Juvenile Department, one thing which struck my idea of the ludicrous was that when a child under 17 is "placed" a visitor (voluntary) is sent, *not* to where the child is working, but to inspect the home conditions! A certain amount of care is taken in "placing" children—they are not sent to public houses or anywhere known to be undesirable; but very little trouble is taken with regard to an ordinary messenger and such like.

If there is no work anywhere in a particular trade a workman can be offered work at another somewhat similar trade at a lower wage rate than that of his own trade, and he will be disqualified from benefit if he refuses it. For instance, at the

(continued on page 610)

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES—(Continued from p. 609).

present time there is no work anywhere for house painters. Those making claims in Dublin have been offered work as red leaders in Armstrong, Whitworth's at Walker-on-Tyne. Now, the rate paid for this is less than the rate paid to house painters in Dublin, hence all the Trade Union men have refused to accept this work. I have heard it said by officials that if Unemployment Insurance were extended to clerks they would probably be disqualified from benefit if they refused other indoor work such as munition work.

I need not explain the danger of this to you—it is plain an extension of Unemployment Insurance is the first step to Industrial Conscription, as it provides all the machinery for making it easy.

A worker unemployed as a result of a trade dispute is debarred from unemployment benefit.

Unemployed workers who are not specially excused from doing so are obliged to attend daily at the Labour Exchange to sign a form vouching that they are still unemployed. This, in many cases, may make it more difficult for them to secure employment.

STEPHEN HOBHOUSE, CRIMINAL

By L. S. SMITH.

In Wormwood Scrubbs, serving a sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour, for refusing to take part directly or indirectly in war, is one of the most striking figures in the pacifist movement to-day, Stephen Hobhouse, son of Henry Hobhouse, Privy Councillor and Ecclesiastical Commissioner.

Some years ago Stephen Hobhouse's convictions of the need for social reconstruction led him to resign an important post in the Board of Education; and since then he has been living in a Hoxton tenement and putting into daily practice his ideals.

In 1913 he spent ten months in the Balkans, doing relief work amongst the refugees in Constantinople and Bulgaria, and his experiences there only strengthened his opposition to war and to the present social conditions which inevitably make for war. In his statement to his local tribunal he said :—

"I saw something of the last war, where I was doing relief work, and on returning to London the sight of districts like Hoxton made me feel that the results of our industrial warfare are in some ways as terrible as those of actual war; indeed more so, in so far as they are permanent and taken as a matter of course. War is always excused by fear, and chiefly by the fear of the loss of property or the desire to acquire it."

In August, 1914, immediately the shadow of war fell on this land, with that depth of sympathy and clearness of vision so characteristic of him, he foresaw the enormous amount of suffering that would ensue to many innocent persons, and within two days of the outbreak of war the "Friends' Emergency Committee for the Relief of Innocent Alien Enemies" came into being, entirely as a result of his concern. From that day to this the Committee has toiled unceasingly "to minister to body, mind, and spirit of these poor people, innocent of causing or wishing war yet stricken so sorely by it."

Space does not permit us to deal with all their activities, but we should like to point out that by far the greater part of their expenditure is amongst British born wives and children of interned aliens. Few people have any idea of the hardships of these poor mothers, struggling to exist on the Government allowance of 11s. 6d. for the mother (9s. 3d. outside London), and 1s. 9d. per child, which latter may be raised to 2s. 6d. at the discretion of the Guardians. Grants of milk for babies or sick children, of coal in winter, of clothing and boots, the finding of suitable rooms, the arrangements made for the care of the children if the mother is ill, are only some of the more obvious ways of relief they find; but more appreciated even than the material assistance is the word of sympathy and cheer extended to these poor souls in their isolation.

Of this Committee, which is playing such an important part in the "healing of the nations," Stephen Hobhouse was the Chairman until last month.

On the twelfth of October he was arrested and taken to Warminster Barracks, and it is characteristic of him that his great anxiety is that no protest or agitation should be made over anything that is done to him.

He says in a letter to his wife written from the Detention Room, Warminster Barracks :

"Though Christ did much in relieving and promoting goodwill, he was not crucified for this, but because he attacked the false conceptions of life, and refused to fit in with the materialistic nationalist ideals of his countrymen. In the present state of the world this side of life seems more important to some of us than the relief of suffering."

This statement is all the more striking coming from one who has done so much to relieve the sufferings of his fellow-men.

On the 15th inst., he was tried by court-martial, the charge being that of refusal to put on uniform. In his defence he stated :—

"My faith in Jesus Christ, my divine Master, compels me to refuse, so far as I reasonably can, to be involved in any system of organisation for purposes of human bloodshed. I am an International Socialist, and can take no part in war or violence designed either to attack or to defend life or property. It is exclusive wealth in material things that prompts aggression; and I believe that the lives, both of ourselves and of our women and children, would not be threatened by Germans or any other men, were we ready, rather than do violence to the aggressor, to abandon to him in a spirit of love our own excessive share of the world's wealth."

On the 18th inst. he was removed, with ten others, to Wormwood Scrubbs, there to serve his sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

IN THE LOBBY

Very little progress is being made with the Suffrage question at the time of writing. The members of the Conference have come to no important agreement yet, and unless they move quicker, Xmas will find no change in the situation.

A member of the Conference who is opposed, and always has been, to votes for women, said, "If woman's suffrage had to come as an outcome of the pressure that he admitted was being made, he would certainly vote for it to be on an Adult Suffrage basis; but that, just at present, no agreement seemed possible.

Another Member of the House said he did not want women brought into the muddle that the men were in.

It was pointed out to him that women's affairs were in a muddle, too, and only women could put them right, effectually.

The French women munitioneers were being shown over the House by a Member, very courteously, and the thought occurred to one, how ready they all are with *courtesy* and *patronage*, and how *long* in securing justice and equality!

A large number of wounded soldiers (little more than boys) were also being entertained, and one could easily imagine that this *entertainment* will be their share of what they have fought for, unless they themselves are given more power under "Adult Suffrage." As "no one knows where the shoe pinches but those that wear it," only they can put their troubles right.

Please will all those interested in "a vote for every woman" and "man of full age," write at once to the Speaker of the Conference and other Members of Parliament to assist them in coming to a just decision on this matter by declaring for "Adult Suffrage"?

C. DRAKE.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT SUFFRAGE.

The National Council for Adult Suffrage has decided to hold a large public meeting in London in the New Year.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9th, 3—10 p.m.
FULL MOON NIGHT
KINGSLEY HALL FETE
ORGANISED BY CLUB MEMBERS—
Sketches, Music, Dialogues, Competitions and Side Shows.
Fancy, Useful and Second-hand Stalls provided by Dining Club, Adult School and Evening Club.
Teas and Refreshments provided and served by Men Members.
To be Opened by
GEORGE LANSBURY
In the SCHOOLROOM of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Bow Road, close to District Railway
(by kind permission of Rev. D. F. Mackenzie)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 8.15 p.m.
The KINGSLEY HALL MEETING will be held in
BAIRD HALL, adjoining Presbyterian Church (see above)
(by kind permission of Rev. D. F. Mackenzie)
Speaker: REV. RICHARD ROBERTS
Open Discussion at 9.30 p.m.

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Toy Dolls from 2s. 3d. upwards; Baby Dolls from 5s. 3d.; Little Black Sambo, 5s. 6d.; "Puck," 4s.; "Dolly Dimple," soft rattle doll for babies, 1s.
STUFFED ANIMALS IN SOFT PLUSH WITH MOVABLE HEADS AND SQUEAKERS
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NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Mass Meeting

To protest against the Government excluding Women from the New Franchise and Register Bill

Oddfellows Hall, EDINBURGH
Sunday, Dec. 3rd, at 6.30 p.m.

Messages to the Government from :—
Councillor Bruce Lindsay, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council and N.M.F.), Councillor John McMichael, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council & N.M.F.), Bailie Hamilton Brown, J.P. (Glasgow Town Council and N.M.F.), Councillor Charlton (Glasgow Town Council, late President Glasgow Trades Council and N.M.F.), Mr. Robert Ferguson (Hon. Sec., Glasgow N.M.F.), Mr. T. Wilson McLaren (N.M.F.), Mr. James Brunton (Trustee of the Edinburgh Trades Council, N.M.F.), Mr. Andrew Young, M.A. (N.M.F.), and others.

Chair: Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett
(President N.M.F.)
ADMISSION FREE

THE NORTHERN MEN'S "MANIFESTO"
on Venereal Disease in its relation to the political disability of women. Being an answer to the Home Secretary's Mansion House Speech. Signed by Sixteen Magistrates of the City of Glasgow and the Executive Committee of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. A record of Parliamentary Facts and Dates for Suffrage Speakers and Social Reformers. PRICE 1d.
Order from YOUR SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The action taken by the Joint Board, and the "Statement" issued by the Labour Party, which are referred to in the following pages, deserve a reply. Here it is, It is addressed to the entire Labour, Trade Union. and Socialist organisations of Great Britain. Study it well, and discuss it in your Societies, for the future well-being of the Working-Class Movement depends upon your verdict.

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PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

November 21st.—Questions on the subject of prisoners of war were very numerous. Mr. Lloyd George refused to tell either the number of prisoners of war in this country who are employed or the nature of their employment. Mr. Hope stated that arrangements are being made to employ these prisoners on the land on condition that the employer makes himself responsible for their custody, housing, and feeding, and that the possibility of employing large numbers of prisoners on land specially acquired for the purpose and as dock labourers is under discussion.

This is not different from the principle involved in the employment of Belgians by Germany.

* * * *

In reply to Mr. W. Thorne on the question of deportations from Belgium, Lord R. Cecil said: "The action we chiefly intend to take is to prosecute the war with all our power and to make it a cardinal point to secure the liberation of Belgian territory and Belgian citizens from such oppression."

* * * *

The Prime Minister explained that all men, other than skilled men, who are called up for service in the Army, and who are not fit for general service in Category "A," are being given an opportunity of enrolling as Army Reserve Munition Workers.

In plain English, "Industrial Conscription." He could not say whether the rule is to apply to all men under a certain age irrespective of the fact that they are in sheltered occupations. We suppose it depends on popular feeling.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

Mr. C. Wason drew attention to the case of a poor widow who has spent her all in bringing up her two boys. They have now been called to the colours, and she has been refused an allowance on the "technical ground that the boys have never actually contributed to her support."

* * * *

Mr. Forster said that the profits of Army canteens—most of which are in France—go ultimately to the Army Council. Major Hunt asked whether it would not be better not to have the profits so very high as they are. Mr. Forster said: "Various political considerations affect the question." We suppose that means the interests of French profiteers. If not, what does it mean? A reply would clear the air.

* * * *

The importation of coloured labour into this country is being considered by the Government; but, although Mr. Asquith promised an opportunity of discussing the subject in the House, he refused to give an undertaking that the decision will be postponed until after the debate, adding that the House would be able "to criticise."

Mr. Thorne suggested that coloured men are on their way here. Mr. Pringle said they have arrived and are already at work.

* * * *

Dr. Addison stated that the revision of Circular L2 is being proceeded with, and will be issued shortly. Under it he proposes to secure for all women whose work is covered by the terms and who work any period not exceeding forty-eight hours a week, £1 per week, provided these hours are the full working week of the establishment.

We suppose now that the attempt will be to prove that forty-eight hours is not the full working week of the establishment. Why not say it shall be in every case, and pay overtime where it is more? But why this fascination for £1 a week?

When it was suggested more than two years ago it was a mere subsistence minimum, now it equals about 12s! Why not make the women's minimum the same as the men's?

* * * *

In view of the fact that many members of Parliament are interested in Government contracts, Mr. Billing asked for legislation to force Parliamentary candidates to declare the companies in which they have shares.

Naturally the Prime Minister refused! That would disclose too much.

HALF-STARVED BELFAST WOMEN.

Mr. Devlin drew attention to the "condition of semi-starvation" of the women workers in Belfast, who in normal times earned 13s. 6d. a week.. Now output has been reduced to two-thirds of the normal. Mr. Pretyman replied that owing to the strike at Messrs. York Street Flax Spinning Company, Limited, the Chief Industrial Commissioner is making inquiry.

* * * *

Mr. Glanville protested against the price of coal in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, which is 2s. 4d. per cwt. when sold by the hundredweight..

Mr. Pretyman said he did not think the price was justified. He offered to refer the matter to the London Merchants' Retail Prices Committee. But this is a committee of the very persons who are putting up the price of coal. When the Coal Act was before the House the Government resisted amendments to protect the small consumer.

Wanted, legislation in the interests of the poor!

MORE HOUNDING DOWN.

Novemer 22nd.—The case of Mr. Dickes, a conscientious objector and Admiralty employé at a salary of £485 a year brought up by Sir H. Dalziel. Dr. Macnamara stated that the Committee on Work of National Importance, to whom the matter was referred, recommended that Mr. Dickes, be allowed to remain in civilian employment under the Crown. He has been 20 years in the public service.

Yet people asked for a man with a "more savory record" to earn public money and attend to the needs of deceased soldiers' and sailors' relatives!

* * * *

Mr. Byrne urged that the Irish prisoners at Frongoch Camp protest against the conception of his duties displayed by the commandant of the Camp, Colonel Lambert, and asked that he should be removed. Mr. Samuel refused to assent to the request, and in reply to another question said that hut leaders are awaiting trial by Military Court for refusing to answer when the roll was called.

They took this action because they believed the roll was called to find men wanted for Conscription.

* * * *

Mr. Samuel admitted that four police constables of the Metropolitan Police Force have been dismissed for joining the National Union of Police and Prison Officers. What is the Trade Union movement going to do about it?

* * * *

Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed. During the debate, Mr. T. M. Healy condemned the British Treasury "as the greatest menace to the peace of Ireland. He pointed out the Dublin police strike, which has resulted in the dismissal of five constables, was caused by intolerable delays imposed by the Treasury.

* * * *

The Registration of Business Names Bill, clauses considered in Committee. This Bill is merely to insure that no Germans shall trade here. Its provisions may be retained after war-fever has passed, and may prhaps prove useful in ways not intended by its promoters.

* * * *

National Insurance (Temporary Employment in Agriculture) Bill was introduced by Mr. Charles Roberts. Its object is to exempt from the provisions of the Insurance Act disabled soldiers who take up agriculture as a temporary occupation. Mr. T. Wilson asked for support for the Bill on the ground that people with incomes of from £200 to £10,000 a year are now working on the land, including two Members of Parliament. But we, Mr. Wilson, and all the world know that the agricultural workers of affluence are in a distinct minority, and if they should happen to pay from 1d. to 3d. a week for benefits they do not need or cannot claim, they are well able to do so. The reason for urging the Bill appeared to be that farmers object to paying 3d. a week for each worker, and it was cited as a farmer's grievance that he often has to pay 3d. per week whilst the employee is exempt from payments, in some cases because the wage is exceedingly low. The farmer must be paying very low wages who finds the rate of 3d. a week a formidable addition.

Mr. Roberts said that "a good many" women do not get the benefits to which they are entitled. This, it would seem, is a reason for improving the Insurance scheme rather than for setting it aside.

* * * *

November 23rd.—Commander Bellairs suggested that relief to the Belgian population should be stopped because workmen are being deported to Germany.

* * * *

Mr. Pemberton Billing alleged that the British Government subsidises, "O Espello," a Portuguese journal, published in London, to the amount of £300 a week. Its object is to further the interests of the British and Allied causes in South America. Lord Robert Cecil did not deny this.

OUTHWAITE'S QUESTION.

Mr. Outhwaite drew attention to the statement of the German Chancellor that on the outbreak of War in 1914 a general instruction of the Russian Government, issued in 1912, for the contingency of mobilisation, was in force, which contained the following passage: "By the All Highest, that it is ordered that the announcement of mobilisation is at the same time an announcement of War against Germany."

Lord R. Cecil said this passage was not understood. It is too clear to be palatable to the British Government.

* * * *

It transpired from a question put by Mr. T. M. Healy that no books can be posted to America without first obtaining a permit.

* * * *

Mr. Outhwaite drew a prallel between the visit of Bishop Bury to Ruhleben, which he has just now undertaken with the Government's permission and that of Miss Hobhouse.

* * * *

Mr. Duke's reply to Mr. R. McNeill showed that no compensation has yet been made to the dependants of civilians murdered in the Irish Rebellion.

* * * *

Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck stated that last May an accident occurred in the Kaduna mines of Northern Nigeria, involving the total disablement of one native and the death of another, and that the verdict at the inquest was one of culpable negligence against a European, James Park. The Council of the Chamber of Mines then telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor attacking the judicial authorities, whereupon the Lieutenant-Governor removed the judicial officer and ordered the issue of a *nolle prosequi*.

Mr. Bonar Law promised to ask the Governor-General for a report.

* * * *

There was a long list of questions on food, whether coal tar might be used instead of sugar; whether the use of new bread should be prohibited when "standard" bread will begin; whether it will mean the killing of animals; what alternative foods can be used; whether rice polishing can be stopped. What the Food Controller will do. Nothing definite or important was arrived at.

* * * *

Mr. Gell and Major Lane Fox asked that Members' questions should be limited, and that there should be a censorship of questions.

* * * *

General Sir Ivor Herbert asked whether the Government would place the union and autonomy of Poland side by side with the reconstitution of Belgium and Serbia. Mr. Asquith replied evasively.

TO UNSEAT PACIFISTS.

Major Lane-Fox asked for legislation to unseat Members whose Parties had officially asked them to resign, and who "dare not" express their views outside the House. Mr. Outhwaite asked for the repeal of the Defence of the Realm Act, which prevented such Members expressing their views outside. Mr. Asquith said that the Act "does not in the least impede Members from expressing their views outside."

True, but they may be punished for doing it!

* * * *

Mr. Forster said that a soldier of sixteen serving in the Highland Light Infantry, Maldon, Essex, is not entitled to claim his discharge!

* * * *

Mr. Outhwaite asked for a Christmas amnesty on the West Front for burying the dead. Mr. Forster said this could only be decided by the Commander-in-Chief.

* * * *

Mr. Forster said he was considering whether or not to increase the ration allowance to 1s. 7d. per day to soldiers on leave.

* * * *

Mr. Lloyd George refused to say whether Chinese labour is to be used in this country.

IRISH PRISONERS.

Mr. Byrne stated that Irish prisoners at Frongoch Camp have been arrested in the Camp as absentees under the Military Service Acts; that 300 prisoners were punished by the Commandant for declining to co-operate with the authorities, and identify these men; that as a result they declared a hunger strike, the Commandant threatened to let them die of starvation if they refused their rations. The prisoners believe the Commandant is trying to goad them to a revolt to have an excuse for shooting them.

Mr. Samuel tried to gloss matters over.

* * * *

Mr. Yeo made the suggestion that as Christmas Day falls on a Monday, separation allowances for soldiers' and sailors' wives and families should be paid on the previous Friday or Saturday.

Mr. Forster said it was being considered. We hope it will be done. Christmas even with the meagre allowances will be tragic enough!

In reply to Mr. Dillon, who asked that the Irish prisoners should be treated as politicals, Mr. Asquith said he hoped to communicate on the matter with Mr. Dillon, and if he were not satisfied, to give facilities for a debate.

It is hoped that there is to be an amnesty.

* * * *

Major Hunt asked what Tribunal exempted Sir Thomas Beecham, the musician. Some people are anxious, it seems, to rid the world of all but politicians and military men!

* * * *

Major Newman asked whether, before the House is asked to undertake legislation to bring the Government of Ireland Act into immediate operation, or other legislation of a party character that might involve the break-up of the Government, the Special Register Bill, or some similar measure to enable soldiers and sailors to exercise the franchise will be placed on the Statute Book?

The Prime Minister: "No such legislation is at present in contemplation, and I see no reason to give a contingent undertaking in regard to it."

* * * *

On the adjournment, Mr. Ellis Griffith and others criticised the Government's policy in Greece.

Lord Robert Cecil fervently pledged the Government never to abandon M. Venizelos.

We should advise M. Venizelos to "wait and see."

PENSIONS

In the House of Commons on November 21st, Mr. Hayes Fisher, in moving the Second Reading of the Pensions Bill, said that it fell short of the ideal pensions administration which he had urged on the Government two years ago. Nevertheless he said, "I do not think there are four Members more sympathetic and more generously disposed towards the soldier and the sailor than the quartette which forms this particular Board."

Yes, there is very much sympathy, but there is a reluctance to realise that when the nation engages in war which results in the death and disablement of masses of men, the nation must take the responsibility of paying. Mr. Hayes Fisher most aptly said, "There can be nothing more demoralising in the world than to endeavour to live on a small pension." Is he prepared to stand by that in practice as well as in theory?

Mr. Forster also expressed sympathy, and said he had found "abundant reward in the thought that one has been doing something to alleviate the lot of those who have suffered in the service of their country."

We submit that this is the wrong attitude to adopt. The point is that the pensioners should be getting their due. Mr. Forster is paid an excellent salary for his work, which is very much less arduous than that of the soldiers and sailors. He has no claim on their gratitude if he does the work efficiently.

Mr. Hayes Fisher urged that there should be a Court of Appeal from the official decision. Mr. Hogge pointed out that this Bill does not provide that necessary institution.

Mr. Henderson predicted that ultimately the disability pensions alone would cost from £15,000,000 to £20,000,000 a year. He admitted many serious defects in the existing system. He said that the medical examination by which men were passed into the Army was "exceedingly bad." Doctors were supposed to have passed 200 or 300 men in a single day, and medical men had been paid allowances for passing men whom they had not even seen. When discharged and pensionless soldiers wrote to Baker Street they were told it was the fault of Chelsea, and when they wrote to Chelsea they were told it was the fault of Baker Street. Most important of all, the Royal Warrants were bad, and these must be altered.

Mr. Henderson desires to abolish the flat rate for pensions. He pointed out that the clause in the Royal Warrant establishing the flat rate lays it down that "no matter what may be the disability, if the man is earning 25s. or over, that fact in itself disentitles him to anything in the nature of a pension."

In our view such a harsh rule ought not to be, and need not be, attached to a flat rate of pension. We view the proposal to abolish the flat rate with grave concern. Mr. Henderson, no doubt, means his alterations in good faith, but we fear to leave the pensioners in the hands of Government officials unless a standard of payment is laid down. Moreover, we are unable to assent to Mr. Henderson's assertion that pensions should depend on the pensioner's pre-War income. Already, in the case of separation allowances to mothers, we have seen how very hardly this bears upon apprentices and youths in general. Moreover, we are opposed to the theory that from people who lived in conditions of wretched poverty before the War must be cut off the chance to rise to better circumstances. We often wish that the entire human race were made to subsist on a flat rate. Then we should find a vigorous push to raise the general standard of living!

Mr. Henderson stated his intention of insuring that pay and separation allowance should be continued until the disabled soldier's cure is as complete as may be and some form of pension has been given. This seems to us to be a good plan.

On November 23rd the Board of Pensions Bill was in Committee, and the salary of the Minister was under discussion. Several Members thought that £2,000 a year is too little for the post. It was pointed out that Mr. Henderson is in the pool that the present Cabinet has made of its salaries, and that he gets £5,000 a year in any case. Some objections were raised to the appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary at £1,500 a year, and also to that of a permanent Under-Secretary but Mr. Henderson said that he would not undertake the work of Pensions Minister and Labour Adviser unless he had these assistants.

On November 27th, Mr .Hogge, who is Secretary to the House of Commons Pensions Committee, moved an amendment to unify the Pensions Administration. He explained that this was part of a series of amendments which would create a Pensions Department for both Army and Navy over which the Pensions Minister would be supreme, would sweep away the Statutory Committee whilst retaining the local committees under the Board's direction; and would cover the power to promulgate Royal Warrants, the issue of service as well as of disability pensions, and the work of the Civil Liabilities Committee. The Board would, in short, be solely responsible for the pension, care and training of discharged soldiers and sailors and the dependants of the men who have been killed.

Mr. Hogge was evidently supported by a majority of the House, and though Mr. Henderson and Mr. Hayes Fisher appealed for the middle course preferred by the Government, Mr. Henderson eventually agreed to accept Mr. Hogge's amendment, and moved to report progress in order that the Government might put down its own consequential amendments.

We are exceedingly glad that the Pensions Scheme is to be unified, but what is more important is to see that adequate pensions and allowances are promptly and fairly paid. The unification of the system is only the preliminary and the easiest step towards securing this.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.

Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st.
Custom House, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
Greenwich, Stockwell Street, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture; Discussion.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2nd.
"Whitehouse," Canning Town, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Lewisham Market Place, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
Caxton Hall Exhibition Poster Parade, 3 p.m., International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th.
Outside "Tabernacle," Barking Road, 3.30 p.m., Miss Price.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
Custom House, 12 (noon), Mrs. Walker.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 2 p.m., Rev. Piggott.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
"Whitehouse," 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
"Abbey Arms," Barking Road, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th.
Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m., 5 Duke Street, Adelphi.
Custom House, 12 (noon), Miss Price.
Deptford Broadway, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.
Lees Hall, Barking Road, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

LONDON.

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Secretary: Miss Price. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending November 25th, 742. Miss O'Brien, 200; Miss Harriet, 168; Mrs. Holloway, 141; Miss Mackay, 53; Miss Smyth, 37; Miss Price, 30; Mrs. Farrall, 13. General sales, 100.

Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood. Branch meeting alternate Mondays at 7 p.m.

Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

Golder's Green.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Clapson, 44 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road.

Poplar.—20 Railway Street, E. DREADNOUGHT sales, 157.

St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, 191 Camden Road, N.W.

Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Shepherd, 141 Villiers Road.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.

Tidal Basin.—Hon. Sec., C. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin, E.

At the meeting held here on November 22nd Mr. Edgar Lansbury gave an excellent address on the "War and the U.D.C." A good discussion followed. Miss Hardy and Miss Bolton were elected as delegates to the Suffrage Conference. Members brought garments for Caxton Hall Exhibition.

The result of the Watch Competition will be announced in the DREADNOUGHT, December 9th. Secretary wishes to make earnest appeal to sympathisers in Tidal Basin to help to make the Lees Hall meeting a success. Please call for bills to distribute among your friends and let me know who will show a poster of this meeting and also one to advertise the Christmas number of the DREADNOUGHT, as soon as possible. Any friends wishing to join this branch may do so, 7.30 p.m., on Wednesday. We have only just commenced, but now wish to put ourselves on a permanent footing, and this cannot be done without co-operation. A dozen or so working together can do a great deal; separately nothing.—C. DRAKE.

Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace.

Brynmawr and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Durham.

Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: V. M. Hardy, Esq., 18 Severn Street, Durham.

Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday at 176 High Street, Cornsay.

Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank.

Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street. Branch meets Fridays at Charing Cross Halls.

Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley.

Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

Medomsley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham.

Nottingham.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hough, 3 Chandos Avenue, Netherfield.

Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road, Southsea. Branch meets alternate Wednesdays, 8 p.m., Trades Hall, Fratton Road.

Sheffield.—Hon. Sec: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street.

This branch has decided to send a delegate to the annual conference. Members' meetings are held every Friday evening at Wentworth Café, 7.30 p.m. DREADNOUGHTS sold week ending November 19th, 150.

Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 77 Tennyson Road.

York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The final lecture of the Friday evening series on Economics, Trade Unionism, History of Socialism, National Guilds, &c., will take place at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., on Friday evening, December 15th, at 7.45. **Speaker: Professor Masaryk, on "Tolstoi's Philosophy of Religion."**

Bow Women's Hall. Public Meeting to-morrow, Sunday, December 3rd, 6 p.m. Miss Dorothy Matthews, "War would become impossible if all men were to have the view that war is wrong"; Mr. Sergius Cyon, "Protection of Motherhood in Germany." Chair: Mrs. Bouvier. Music. Refreshments at popular prices. Admission free.

Lees Hall, Barking Road, Public meeting on Human Suffrage and Reconstruction after the War, Sunday, December 10th, 6 p.m. (doors open at 5.30). Speakers: Mrs. Boyce, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Robert Williams. Chair: Mrs. Drake. Admission free.

Public Meeting, December 17th, Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m. Mr. H. J. Lane, "Spare the Rod and Save the Child." Mrs. Boyce

THE BOW CHOIR.

A singing class to form a choir is held every Wednesday evening at 7.15 p.m. at Bow Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. Mdlle. Espagne has kindly undertaken the tuition. All women are invited to join. Charge, 2d. each lesson.

CHANDOS HALL.

The audience at the W.S.F. "at home" on Thursday afternoon was greatly disappointed by the announcement that Mr. Ginnell, M.P., who had only been released from prison a few days before, was too ill to appear. Mr. Leahy, a fellow-Irishman and member of the N.U.R., however, kindly acted as substitute.

Mrs. Paul Campbell gave a most interesting address on "Women and Internationalism." She said that she was opposed to militarism in every land. German militarism had its Zabern; French militarism its Dreyfus case; British its Ireland. If Germany had to bear the shame of Nurse Cavell's execution, we had to bear the shame of the murder of Sheehy Skeffington. Mrs. Campbell said she would consider herself a better Socialist and a better woman if she bought goods made by the German co-operative movement than if she bought goods made by the British capitalist.

ONE WHO DISAGREES WITH US.

Mr. Marriott, of 6 Sackville Street, Reading, writes to advise Mrs. Herring, whose letter under the above heading we published last week, to read Captain Burnaby's "Ride to Khiva."

Having failed in a direct effort to obtain Conscription in Australia, Mr. Hughes is about to adopt the Derby Schem. No doubt he will endeavour to use the scheme as it was used here, to divide and cajole popular opinion by its means in order to introduce Conscription later on. We would advise Australians not to be deluded by the "married *versus* single" or any other dodge.

THE "TRADE UNIONIST"

We learn that our contemporary, the "Trade Unionist," which is printed by Mr. E. H. Williams, who, until recently, printed the DREADNOUGHT, has been suppressed for publishing articles entitled: "Forty Millions—Mostly Fools," by Mr. W. F. Watson, and an unsigned article, the "Three Card Trick." The prosecution complains that the first of these articles contends that the working classes are the downtrodden dupes of the capitalists, and that they remain so because they are "mostly fools." This seems to us to be a very just summing up of the national and international situation. The "Three Card Trick" article is complained of because it likens the governors of Europe to the tricksters, declaring that the people are being bluffed into compulsory slaughter whilst those who discover the trick are hustled away. Mr. Muir, who conducted the case for the prosecution, complained that Mr. Watson's article stated that the expression "combing out"' is intended to convey that the men combed out are vermin. It would be absurd were it not an intensely serious matter to attempt to prosecute anyone for expressing an opinion in regard to the meaning of a phrase. This particular phrase is a very ugly one, and is used in connection with a very ugly thing—the forcing of unwilling men into the Army.

THE "DREADNOUGHT"

Do not miss the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, of December 16th!

CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER

containing original drawings by Amy K. Browning, A.R.C.A., S. B. Pearse, and Herbert Cole.

Literary contributions by Israel Zangwill, Miles Malleson, George Lansbury, Isabella O. Ford, Mary Arnold, U.S.A., Irene McLeod, Eric Chappelow, J. Bruce Glasier, Harriet Newcomb, Eva Gore-Booth, etc., as well as our usual contributors. Order now!

Dear Editor,—You may care to add one more example of equal pay for equal work to your stock. A notice hangs in a stationer's window, "Wanted, a smart boy or girl." A customer enters and says to the Manager, "I see your notice, I might be able to find you what you want, what are the duties?" "Oh, just to run our errands, is it a boy or a girl?" The Customer: "Why do you ask? Would the work be different?" "Oh no, but the pay would." Customer: "Well, mine's a girl, thank-you, I'll send her elsewhere."—Yours, etc., FAIR PLAY.

COME TO CAXTON HALL
December 7th, 8th, & 9th

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. M. Lansbury, £10; Miss M. Hood, 13s. 6d.; Miss Norah C. Morrison, 5s.; R. Graham, Esq., 5s.; Mrs. Hart (profit on tea), 3s. 4d.; Mr. E. Green, 3s. 1d.; Harold Sandon, Esq., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Lynch, 1s. 3d.; Anon. (Leicester), 1s. COLLECTIONS: Bow Women's Hall (two collections), £1 7s. 8d.; Chandos Hall, 17s. 6½d.; Mrs. Boyce, 4s.; Miss Harriet, 2s. 8d.; Poplar Women's Hall, 1s. 4½d.; "Collected," 1s.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—A. S. Coombes, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Miss Lynch, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Thomas, 1s. COLLECTION: Miss Lynch, 5s. 3d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. Hecht, £1 1s.; P. H. King, Esq., £1 1s.; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; A. S. Coombes, Esq., 10s. 6d.; H. C. J. (Halifax), 10s. 6d.; Miss M. E. Morgan (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; J. A. Morton, Esq., 5s.; Mr. Thomas, 1s.; "A Poor Well-Wisher," 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 8s. 3d.; Miss H. M. Marshall, £1 1s. 1d.; L.S.A. Body Room, 15s. 0½d.; L.S.A. Polishing Dept., 12s. 8½d.; Mrs. Lambert, 12s.; Miss Lagsding (Green's Yard), 11s. 6d.; Nurse Hooton, 7s.; Teddy du Vergier, 4s.; Miss Price, 2s. 2½d.; Chandos Hall, 1s. 4d.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

EGGS.—Lady Margaret Sackville.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. Boswell.

EXHIBITION.—Mrs. Parry, £1; Mrs. Branch, 15s.; F. W. Shorrocks, Esq., 14s.; Mrs. Tollemache, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Turner, 2s. 6d.; A. J. Cable, Esq., 1s.; Miss Volkert, babies' robes; Miss Brabner, woollen coat; Mrs. Page, fancy goods; Tidal Basin Members, clothes.

TIDAL BASIN BRANCH.—Miss Hardy, Miss Bolton, Miss Deberell, Mrs. Pullen, Mrs. F. Woods, Mrs. S. Chandler, Mrs. F. Chandler, Mrs. Waddington, and Mrs. Drake have made garments for the Exhibition.

Miss Julia Lyn, doll.

Mr. Longfellow, one of the workers at the L.S.A., has made the W.S.F. a charming little model milk churn in which to collect for our babies. This gift is greatly appreciated.

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438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Friday, December 8th, 10 a.m.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's' consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 3 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

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New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

W.S.F. PAMPHLETS

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FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

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